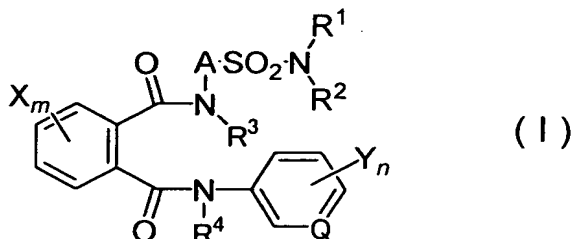


CLAIMS

1. A sulfonamide derivative represented by general formula (I), or a salt thereof:



wherein A is a (C₁-C₆)alkylene group; a substituted (C₁-C₆)alkylene group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different; a (C₃-C₆)alkenylene group; a substituted (C₃-C₆)alkenylene group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-

C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different; a (C₃-C₆)alkynylene group; or a substituted (C₃-C₆)alkynylene group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different; any saturated carbon atom in the (C₁-C₆)alkylene group, substituted (C₁-C₆)alkylene group, (C₃-C₆)alkenylene group, substituted (C₃-C₆)alkenylene group, (C₃-C₆)alkynylene group or substituted (C₃-C₆)alkynylene group may be substituted by a (C₂-C₅)alkylene group so as to form a (C₃-C₆)cycloalkane ring, and any two carbon atoms in the (C₂-C₆)alkylene group, substituted (C₂-C₆)alkylene group, (C₃-C₆)alkenylene group or substituted (C₃-C₆)alkenylene group may be taken together with an alkylene group or an alkenylene group so as to represent a (C₃-C₆)cycloalkane ring or a (C₃-C₆)cycloalkene ring;

R¹ is a hydrogen atom; a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group,

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hydroxyl group, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyloxy groups, phenoxy group, substituted phenoxy groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups, phenylthio group, substituted phenylthio groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and (C₁-

C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups, phenyl group, substituted phenyl groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups, pyridyl group, and substituted pyridyl groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups; a (C₃-C₆)alkenyl group; a halo(C₃-C₆)alkenyl group; a (C₃-C₆)alkynyl group; a halo(C₃-C₆)alkynyl group; a (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl group; a hydroxyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; an amino group; a mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino group; a mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino group; a di(C₁-

C₆)alkylamino group whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different; a di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino group whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different; a (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonylamino group; a phenylamino group; a substituted phenylamino group having on the ring one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups; a benzoylamino group; a substituted benzoylamino group having on the ring one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino

groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups; -N=C(T¹)T² (wherein each of T¹ and T², which may be the same or different, is a hydrogen atom, a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a phenyl group or a substituted phenyl group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups); a phenyl group; a substituted phenyl group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-

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(C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups; a pyridyl group; or a substituted pyridyl group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups;

each of R², R³ and R⁴, which may be the same or different, is a hydrogen atom, a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a (C₃-C₆)alkenyl group, a (C₃-C₆)alkynyl group, a (C₁-C₄)alkoxy(C₁-C₄)alkyl group or a (C₁-C₄)alkylthio(C₁-

C₄)alkyl group, R² being able to bind to A or R¹ to form a 3- to 8-membered ring which may contain one to three atoms that may be the same or different and are selected from oxygen atom, sulfur atom and nitrogen atom, and which ring may have one or more substituents that may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, and R² being able to be taken together with R¹ to represent =C(T³)T⁴ (wherein each of T³ and T⁴, which may be the same or different, is a hydrogen atom, a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy group, an amino group, a mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino group, a di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino group whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, a mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino group, a di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino group whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, a phenyl group or a substituted phenyl group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or

different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups);

Q is a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

each of Xs, which may be the same or different, is a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an amino group, a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a (C₂-C₆)alkenyl group, a halo(C₂-C₆)alkenyl group, a (C₂-C₆)alkynyl group, a halo(C₃-C₆)alkynyl group, a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyloxy group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyloxy group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylthio group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyloxy group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyloxy group, a mono(C₁-C₆)-alkylamino group, a mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino group, a di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino group whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, a di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino group whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, a (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonylamino group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonylamino group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonylamino group or a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonylamino group,

further, two adjacent Xs on the aromatic ring being able to be taken together to represent a fused ring that may have one or more substituents which may

be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, nitro group, cyano group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, and di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, m is an integer of 0 to 2;

each of Ys, which may be the same or different, is a halogen atom; a cyano group; a nitro group; a hydroxyl group; a formyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a hydroxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; a (C₁-C₆)alkylthio group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio group; a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group; a phenoxy

group; a substituted phenoxy group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups; a phenylthio group; a substituted phenylthio group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups; a pyridyloxy group; or a substituted pyridyloxy group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups,

further, two adjacent Ys on the aromatic ring

being able to be taken together to represent a fused ring that may have one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, nitro group, cyano group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, and di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, and n is an integer of 0 to 3.

2. A sulfonamide derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein A is a (C₁-C₆)alkylene group; a substituted (C₁-C₆)alkylene group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups; a (C₃-C₆)alkenylene group; a substituted (C₃-C₆)alkenylene group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-

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C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups; a (C₃-C₆)alkynylene group; or a substituted (C₃-C₆)alkynylene group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups; any saturated carbon atom in the (C₁-C₆)alkylene group, substituted (C₁-C₆)alkylene group, (C₃-C₆)alkenylene group, substituted (C₃-C₆)alkenylene group, (C₃-C₆)alkynylene group or substituted (C₃-C₆)alkynylene group may be substituted by a (C₂-C₅)alkylene group so as to form a (C₃-C₆)cycloalkane ring, and any two carbon atoms in the (C₂-C₆)alkylene group, substituted (C₂-C₆)alkylene group, (C₃-C₆)alkenylene group or substituted (C₃-C₆)alkenylene group may be taken together with an alkylene group or an alkenylene group so as to represent a (C₃-C₆)cycloalkane ring or a (C₃-C₆)cycloalkene ring;

R¹ is a hydrogen atom; a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, hydroxyl group, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy

groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyloxy groups, phenoxy group, substituted phenoxy groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups, phenylthio group, substituted phenylthio groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups, phenyl group, substituted

phenyl groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups, pyridyl group, and substituted pyridyl groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups; a (C₃-C₆)alkenyl group; a halo(C₃-C₆)alkenyl group; a (C₃-C₆)alkynyl group; a halo(C₃-C₆)alkynyl group; a (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl group; a hydroxyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; an amino group; a mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino group; a mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino group; a di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino group whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the

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same or different; a di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino group whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different; a (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonylamino group; a phenylamino group; a substituted phenylamino group having on the ring one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups; a benzoylamino group; a substituted benzoylamino group having on the ring one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino

groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups; a phenyl group; a substituted phenyl group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups; a pyridyl group; or a substituted pyridyl group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups,

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mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different; di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups;

each of R², R³ and R⁴, which may be the same or different, is a hydrogen atom, a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a (C₃-C₆)alkenyl group, a (C₃-C₆)alkynyl group, a (C₁-C₄)alkoxy(C₁-C₄)alkyl group or a (C₁-C₄)alkylthio(C₁-C₄)alkyl group, R² being able to bind to A or R¹ to form a 3- to 8-membered ring which may contain one to three atoms that may be the same or different and are selected from oxygen atom, sulfur atom and nitrogen atom, and which ring may have one or more substituents that may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups;

Q is a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

each of Xs, which may be the same or different, is a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a (C₂-C₆)alkenyl group, a halo(C₂-C₆)alkenyl group, a (C₂-C₆)alkynyl group, a halo(C₃-C₆)alkynyl group, a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyloxy group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyloxy group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylthio group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group, a

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halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyloxy group or a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyloxy group, two adjacent Xs on the aromatic ring being able to be taken together to represent a fused ring that may have one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, nitro group, cyano group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, m is an integer of 0 to 2;

each of Ys, which may be the same or different, is a halogen atom; a cyano group; a nitro group; a hydroxyl group; a formyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a hydroxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; a (C₁-C₆)alkylthio group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio group; a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group; a phenoxy

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group; a substituted phenoxy group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups; a phenylthio group; a substituted phenylthio group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups; a pyridyloxy group; or a substituted pyridyloxy group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, two adjacent Ys on the aromatic ring being able to be taken together to represent a

fused ring that may have one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, nitro group, cyano group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, and di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, and n is an integer of 0 to 3.

3. A sulfonamide derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein A is a (C₁-C₆)alkylene group or a substituted (C₁-C₆)alkylene group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, any carbon atom in the (C₁-C₆)alkylene group or substituted (C₁-C₆)alkylene group may be substituted by a (C₂-C₅)alkylene group so as to form a (C₃-C₆)cycloalkane ring, and any two carbon atoms in the (C₂-C₆)alkylene group or substituted (C₂-C₆)alkylene

group may be taken together with an alkylene group so as to represent a (C₃-C₆)cycloalkane ring;

R¹ is a hydrogen atom; a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, hydroxyl group, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyloxy groups, phenoxy group, substituted phenoxy groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups, phenylthio group, substituted phenylthio groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are

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selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups, phenyl group, substituted phenyl groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups, pyridyl group, and substituted pyridyl groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and (C₁-

C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups; a (C₃-C₆)alkenyl group; a halo(C₃-C₆)alkenyl group; a (C₃-C₆)alkynyl group; a halo(C₃-C₆)alkynyl group; a (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl group; a hydroxyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; an amino group; a mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino group; a mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino group; a di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino group whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different; a di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino group whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different; a (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonylamino group; a phenylamino group; a substituted phenylamino group having on the ring one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups; a benzoylamino group; a substituted benzoylamino group having on the ring one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano

group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)-alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups; a phenyl group; a substituted phenyl group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups; a pyridyl group; or a substituted pyridyl group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are

selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, mono(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups, mono(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups, di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino groups whose (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, di(halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl)amino groups whose halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups may be the same or different, and (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl groups;

each of R², R³ and R⁴, which may be the same or different, is a hydrogen atom, a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a (C₃-C₆)alkenyl group, a (C₃-C₆)alkynyl group, a (C₁-C₄)alkoxy(C₁-C₄)alkyl group or a (C₁-C₄)alkylthio(C₁-C₄)alkyl group, R² being able to bind to A or R¹ to form a 3- to 8-membered ring which may contain one to three atoms that may be the same or different and are selected from oxygen atom, sulfur atom and nitrogen atom, and which ring may have one or more substituents that may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups;

Q is a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

each of Xs, which may be the same or different, is a halogen atom, a nitro group, a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a (C₂-

C_6)alkenyl group, a halo(C_2-C_6)alkenyl group, a (C_2-C_6)alkynyl group, a halo(C_3-C_6)alkynyl group, a (C_1-C_6)alkoxy group, a halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy group, a (C_1-C_6)alkylcarbonyloxy group, a halo(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbonyloxy group, a (C_1-C_6)alkylthio group, a halo(C_1-C_6)alkylthio group, a (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfinyl group, a halo(C_1-C_6)alkylsulfinyl group, a (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl group, a halo(C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl group, a (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyloxy group or a halo(C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyloxy group, two adjacent Xs on the aromatic ring being able to be taken together to represent a fused ring that may have one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, nitro group, cyano group, (C_1-C_6)alkyl groups, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl groups, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy groups, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy groups, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio groups, halo(C_1-C_6)alkylthio groups, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C_1-C_6)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl groups, m is an integer of 0 to 2;

each of Ys, which may be the same or different, is a halogen atom; a (C_1-C_6)alkyl group; a halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl group; a halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl group; a hydroxyhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl group; a (C_1-C_6)alkoxyhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl group; a halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxyhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl group; a (C_1-C_6)alkoxy group; a halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy group; a halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxyhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy group; a (C_1-C_6)alkylthio group; a halo(C_1-C_6)alkylthio group; a (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfinyl group; a

halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxyhalo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group; a phenoxy group; a substituted phenoxy group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups; a phenylthio group; a substituted phenylthio group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups; a pyridyloxy group; or a substituted pyridyloxy group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-

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C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, two adjacent Ys on the aromatic ring being able to be taken together to represent a fused ring that may have one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, and n is an integer of 0 to 3.

4. An agricultural and horticultural insecticide characterized by containing a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claims 1 to 3 as an active ingredient.

5. A method for applying an agricultural and horticultural insecticide, characterized by treating a crop plant to be protected, soil or a paddy field with an effective amount of an agricultural and horticultural insecticide according to claim 4 in order to protect useful plants against insect pests.